

and recruit volunteers. As a result of the programs, countless individuals have donated time and funds that enabled the Cemetery to purchase trees, benches, pavers, floral vases and other items that have improved the aesthetic value and made it easier for individuals to pay their respects to the veterans who are interred at the Cemetery. During Jack's tenure as Superintendent, the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery has undergone many expansions and has become the second busiest cemetery in the Nation. As part of the expansion and improvement efforts, Jack redesigned the monument section, converted several areas to water efficient desert landscaping, and assisted in the building of the Cemetery Chapel. As the final resting place for over 20,000 of our Nation's military heroes, the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery has truly become a beautiful place to honor those veterans. This is due, in no small part, to Jack Porrino's dedication to making the Cemetery the best it can be.

In addition to his dedication to the Veterans' Cemetery, Jack is committed to strong family values and community involvement. He and his wife Kathleen have been married for 36 years. Together, they have three children and one grandchild. Jack coaches Little League Sports and serves on the Board of Directors in his Home Owners Association. He also teaches Bible study classes at his church for children and adults and regularly speaks to Veterans' and civilian organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Jack Porrino. He has dedicated his life to serving his country and honoring America's Veterans. As a result of his leadership and advocacy, the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery has become a place of dignity, honor and beauty.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSE  
OLLERVIDES

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose Ollervides, a highly regarded anchor with KLDO TV News, a subdivision of Univision. He was recently honored by the Texas State Teachers Association with the prestigious Texas School Bell Award for his excellent coverage on educational issues that affects teachers and students in the State of Texas.

Mr. Ollervides is a highly intelligent, driven professional who is well-regarded in his community and among his peers in the broadcasting industry. He graduated from Universidad Del Noreste, in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico with a Licenciado in Ciencias De La Comunicacion, which is similar to a Bachelor of Arts in Communications.

Within ten years of his graduation from Universidad del Noreste in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico, he attained the prestigious position of being a television reporter for the KLDO TV Station, an affiliate of Univision in Laredo, Texas. The station was rated by Nielsen as #1 for the last five years, where due to his strong work ethic, he was instrumental in reporting important news and events for the community of Laredo, Texas,

and other affiliates such as KWEX TV Station in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the great honor bestowed upon Mr. Jose Ollervides by the Texas State Teachers Association.

H.R. 4297, TAX INCREASE PREVENTION AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2006*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican's tax reconciliation bill. This legislation is a cynical tax giveaway for the wealthy paid for by slashing services critical to families and heaping debt on future generations.

H.R. 4297 includes \$70 billion in tax breaks—primarily an extension of capital gains and dividend tax cuts. Almost half of that \$70 billion will benefit those making over \$1 million a year. In Minnesota, 68 percent of the benefit of this bill will go to only 2 percent of taxpayers. Those making \$200,000 or more will see an average benefit of over \$6,000, while those making under \$75,000 will see a return of only \$55 on average.

The Majority party has focused tax relief on a chosen few rather than providing tax relief for everyone. Even though tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003 have already provided millionaires with an average tax cut of \$109,000, Republicans have again chosen to prioritize further gains to those who need it the least at the expense of middle-class families. The alternative minimum tax, which is a critical problem facing middle-class families, is shortchanged by this proposal. This bill provides only a one-year extension instead of honestly dealing with this issue. In addition, because these tax cuts are partially paid for by cuts to student loans and health care, working men and women are paying twice in this Republican plan.

This bill also fails to address critical issues such as extending the research and development tax credit, the tax deduction for student loans, and the deduction of state and local taxes—provisions that make an enormous difference in the lives of families across the country. For example, the student loan tax deduction provides opportunities for more families to access higher education, resulting in better paying jobs, which fuels our economy.

Our national debt is nearly \$9 trillion. In the last 5 years, President Bush has borrowed more than \$1 trillion from foreign governments and financial institutions. It is clearly not the time to add billions of dollars to the debt in order to provide more wealth for those most fortunate. This is a fiscally and morally irresponsible plan and should be rejected.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does not reflect the priorities of Minnesota or American families. With our country facing a growing deficit, a stagnant job economy, and spiking gas prices, it is not the time for reckless spending through tax cuts. Democrats have offered an alternative that targets relief for families without adding to the debt burden facing our children and grandchildren.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this reckless bill and support economic policies that

benefit families, increase our competitiveness, and reduce our national debt.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE NEVADA  
NATIONAL GUARD

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the Nevada National Guard, and I honor them today for their service to the State of Nevada and our Nation.

The Nevada National Guard is comprised of 2,072 soldiers and 994 airman totaling 3,066 members. The Nevada National Guard has participated in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle. According to the Army National Guard's Bureau of Statistics, Nevada's contributions in support of these missions ranked among the top in the nation in overall percentages during 2003 and 2004. The following seven Units of the Nevada National Guard and Air National Guard have participated in the global war on terror: 1864th Transportation Company, Kuwait/Iraq; 1/21st Cavalry, Ft. Irwin, CA; D Company, 113th Aviation, Afghanistan; Detachment 45, OSA, Kuwait; 593 Transportation Company, Iraq; 152nd Airlift Wing & 152nd Intelligence Sqdn, Iraq; 192nd Airlift Sqdn & 152nd Maintenance Sqdn, Puerto Rico.

In addition to their national mission, the Nevada National Guard serves the State through a number of regional missions which include firefighting, security assistance, and natural disaster response. In August of 2005 the National Guard responded to Louisiana's call for help in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and Rita by providing emergency management assistance, security, and evacuation assistance to the gulf coast region.

The Nevada National Guard is a key player in Nevada's drug control and prevention efforts. By partnering with Federal, State, and local officials and providing intelligence gathering expertise, the Guard is helping Nevada communities win the war on drugs. Nevada's Guard continues to serve our Nation throughout the world in the global war on terror and is ready to respond at a moment's notice whenever needed.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute the members of Nevada's National Guard and their families, and I honor them today for their service and dedication to our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN W.  
MONTOKA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John W. Montoya, chief patrol agent for the Laredo Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol, for his incredible dedication to the city of Laredo, TX. He will retire from his long and distinguished 29 years of service in the Border Patrol on Friday, May 26, 2006.

Mr. Montoya was born in Albuquerque, NM, where he spent his youth, and later attended